

Janet Murdoch and William Baird

William Baird, Sr., was born November 3, 1849, at Rutherglen, Lanarkshire, Scotland. His parents were John Baird, Sr., and Elizabeth Marshall. His grandparents were Robert Baird and Agnes McGowan, and William Marshall and Ann Willey.

William Baird was known by many as Billy Baird. His parents had invited the Mormon missionaries into their home and had attended cottage meetings in other homes when living in Rutherglen, and he was baptized October 18, 1859, along with his neighbors and acquaintances. He was always full of life and adventure as a young man. At the early age of nine he left school and went to work. His experiences took him from the shipyards to a tailor shop, where he was bound as an apprentice for seven years at a half crown per week with a raise of about twenty-five cents per year. Because he was a few minutes late one morning his employer abused him and choked him, so he ran away to Glasgow. Penniless, he walked the streets for some time, and finally got a job with another tailor.

His parents, unknown to him, were visiting relatives in Glasgow on their way to port for sailing to America. They were en route to Salt Lake City with seven hundred other Mormons. He accidentally met them on the street and sailed with them to America on the ship Bellwood. It was a vessel propelled only by the wind, and their journey took them seven weeks. Many a night he awoke and listened to the captain instruct the crew as they pumped water to keep them afloat. On the ship's return trip to Liverpool, it sank in mid-ocean. Their food during the trip was salt pork and hard tack, and it was rationed out each day to make sure they had enough to feed them during the trip.

The Baird family stayed on the east coast just long enough to provide themselves with a covered wagon and supplies for them to cross the plains. Young William, a boy of about seventeen years, left his family and went as a driver of a freight wagon for a shipping company. After driving for some time, he and four other boys could not stand the cruelty of their employer and left him. They took their bedrolls on their backs and a little flour and bacon. They walked across the plains. The only protection they had was a gun, and it had no ammunition. When they arrived at Green River, Wyoming, they were almost starved, but soon found friends and got a job driving wagons to Salt Lake City. When they arrived in Salt Lake City, they found the Baird family once more. William was much surprised, for while he was walking across the plains, he found a buffalo skull upon which

was written the account of his family being killed during an Indian raid. It was the custom of the pioneers to leave messages written on buffalo skulls for the companies that followed. Shortly after arriving in Salt Lake Valley, the family moved to Heber. Here his youngest sister was born. She is Mrs. Jane Phillips. The night she was born, he spent the night holding milk pans over his mother's bed to keep her dry as the water ran through the dirt roof.

Billy met and courted Janet Murdoch in Heber. They were married February 5, 1880, in the old Endowment House in Salt Lake City, Utah. They had nine children. They had a farm adjoining his father's farm in Lake Creek. In April of 1898 they moved to Carey, Idaho, and bought the Hot Springs Ranch. This ranch contained more than one thousand acres, along which was located a group of hot springs giving it its name. Through the claim flowed the waters of Fish Creek, which fed the lake. This ranch was off the highway, and they grubbed sagebrush off it. It had plenty of water, and the farm flourished.

On September 20, 1898, his wife, Jennie, gave birth to a baby girl, and three days later she passed away with complications due to childbirth. This was a frightening experience for the family. She was a very close companion to William, and he was lonely. His eldest daughter, Jessie, was sixteen years of age and did her best to help her father take care of the family and keep up the home for three years. At the age of nineteen she was married.

January 29, 1902, Billy married Isabelle Sneddon in the Salt Lake Temple. She was called Belle by most people. He had a large house built for her closer to town in Carey. One by one the boys were on their own herding sheep, breaking horses, farming, and so on. As the boys grew older, they bought land from their father and were successful farmers and livestock men. He soon found the large home too much for the two of them, and built a smaller one next to it. Belle was very devoted to him. They sang beautifully together. They had one son, Thomas. As they grew older they spent many winters in St. George and California. He loved to tell stories about his bonnie Scotland, and he loved Carey and the people there. He was a very temperate man in everything he did. He loved to go fishing, and raised a garden up to the time he was ninety-five years of age.

Isabelle died at the age of seventy, March 15, 1938. She was a very quiet, uncomplaining person. She was very thin, and wasn't very well for several years, but was up and taking care of Billy and their home. Their son Thomas was married, and they had three grandchildren, a girl and two boys.

Billy's daughter, Jessie, was left a widow, and in later years lived with her father; this helped his loneliness. As promised in his patriarchal blessing, his posterity, praise him and his companion, and he always had plenty of the bounties of the earth. He was always alert and active in knowing what was going on around him. Although

his boys were all away from home at an early age making their own livelihood, they had a strong bond of love and duty for one another throughout their lives.

An outstanding virtue of Billy and his sons was that of honesty. He worked hard as a young man, and taught his sons this virtue. He was a very good manager, was always clean, and kept his surroundings clean. He was a man blessed abundantly with good health. He remarked once, "I cannot remember when I have ever been ill or in pain." He had a skin cancer on his face close to his eye, and the last year of his life it started to grow so much that it impaired his vision. He passed away at the age of ninety-six, June 27, 1946. He is buried in the cemetery at Carey, Idaho.

Janet Lennox Murdoch was born October 18, 1855, at Gaswater, Ayr, Scotland. She was the daughter of William and Janet Lennox Murdoch. Her grandparents were James and Mary Murdoch, and David Lennox and Elisabeth Templeton. She was the fifth child of six children born to them. William also had another wife, Mary Reid Lindsay, and three children were born to them.

Her father and mother were hard-working people, and she followed in their footsteps. She grew up in a family with close family ties. They learned to work together and were happy together. Her oldest sister was Elizabeth; then came James "D". David Lennox, and in 1854 a baby sister, Mary, who lived only eleven days. Janet was born in 1855 and was named after her mother. The last child in the family was born in 1858; her name was Margaret.

Janet was known to all as Jennie. She lived in several towns in Scotland in her early years, Gaswater, Ponesk, Muirkirk, and Kilmarnock. When she was nine years old, her sister Elizabeth, just seventeen years of age, passed away, and when Janet was twenty-two years of age, in 1877, her mother was also laid to rest by the side of her daughter Elizabeth in Muirkirk.

Janet's parents were members of the Church of Scotland. She had aunts and uncles who joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and her mother also joined October 8, 1853. Her father, William, could see no need for making a change until several years later, October 8, 1877. Her parents were good, honest, religious people, and were well respected in the communities wherever they lived. Her mother went quietly about her duties in her home, where there was love and peace, but she was waiting for her desire to have her children and husband join the Church and come to Zion.

Her schooling commenced in Muirkirk. She had a fair education and was always an outstanding student in her class.

At the age of twenty-one, October 8, 1877, Janet was baptized along with her father and sister Margaret. At this time they were living on Gilmore St. Kilmarnock. She was baptized by David Milne and confirmed by James Houston, John Aird, and David Milne. This was a dream come true for her mother, Jessie (as she was called). Her mother died December

20, 1877, and Janet continued to live with her father and sister Margaret.

In May, 1878, she, with her father and other family members, left Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, Scotland, and went by train to Glasgow, where they joined her brother David and his young wife. John Adamson, a young man who was engaged to marry her sister, Margaret, was with them. In the same party was her father's sister, Veronica. From Glasgow they went to Liverpool, where they joined a company of Mormon emigrants. They left May 24, 1878, on the steamship Nevada. They crossed the Atlantic Ocean in about ten days. Accommodations on the steamship were good, and they had plenty of food. From New York they went by train (three days) to Salt Lake City, Utah. It only took two weeks from Scotland to Utah. They were met in Salt Lake City by Uncle John, William M. Giles, and William Lindsay with two teams of horses and wagons, and they went to Uncle John's in Heber City. She was happy to be here, and thought of how elated her mother would have been. She and Margaret lived with her father on a farm in Lake Creek, four miles east of Heber. Her sister, Margaret (or Maggie, as she was called), was married in 1879.

William Baird was living with his parents and family on a homestead adjoining the Murdochs. There was a little hill between the two places. The Bairds sold milk to the Murdochs and William used to take the milk over the hill, and Janet would meet him and take the milk home. Thus started the courtship of William and Janet. At the age of twenty-five, she and William were married in the old Endowment House in Salt Lake City, Utah, on February 5, 1880.

William, or Billy, as he was called, took up a farm adjoining his father's farm, and they lived there until 1898. They had eight children, six sons and two daughters, all born at Lake Creek. The eldest, John, was born in 1881, and the youngest, Bruce, was born in 1896. Jennie was a devoted wife and mother and shared many of the tribulations of the early pioneers in a new country and community. She was a dressmaker by trade, and an excellent seamstress. She made all of their clothes, and as she had no equipment, they were all made by hand. She was especially interested in teaching her children the principles and doctrines of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

She was a small woman, being 5 feet 2 inches tall, and her weight was 105 pounds. Her eyes were gray and she had fine-textured brown hair. She had good health, and many have noted that she had a wonderful disposition and never complained. Billy loved to tease, and they had lots of fun and love in their home. Jennie was very reserved and modest. She liked a quiet life.

Her sister, Maggie, and brother-in-law, John Adamson, lived in Park City, where John worked in the Daly Mine. The mine closed due to an economic depression. They talked to Billy and Jennie about making a move to Idaho. Billy was anxious to find land where he could get more water than was available near Heber. John Adamson and his brother-in-law,

James "D" Murdoch, went by train to look at land in the Upper Snake River Valley, but while on the train they read an advertisement about the Hot Spring Ranch in Carey being for sale. They went right to Carey, liked what they saw, and bought it. The Hot Spring Ranch had unlimited water for irrigation and many acres of wild hay, and grass grew in abundance. Billy was excited about owning part of the ranch. He and Jennie were concerned about making a move at this time, as she was expecting her ninth child. After much thought and planning, they packed their belongings and moved to Carey, Idaho in April, 1898. No doubt Billy was anxious to be there and take care of the farm work in the spring of the year.

A baby girl was born September 20, 1898, five months after their arrival in Carey. Three days later, September 23, 1898, Jennie passed away from complications of childbirth. It was necessary for someone to go by horseback to Hailey, Idaho, for a doctor, but by the time he arrived in his buggy it was too late to save her life. The baby was named Margaret, and Billy gave her to Maggie to raise. She did all that was possible to save the baby, but the baby passed away one month later, October 25, 1898.

Even though Jennie had passed on, the family felt a closeness to her, and in times of sickness and other trouble they felt their mother was aware of them and brought comfort to them.

Her children have all been baptized members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and have been honest, hard-working people.

Her children are: John "D", Jessie Lennox, William Murdoch, Elizabeth Marshall, Ernest Wallace, James Alexander, David, Bruce, and Margaret. She is the grandmother of seventeen boys and sixteen girls. She was laid to rest in the old Carey Cemetery.